Claims

1. Use of an alkenecarboxylic acid N-alkylamide of the formula

$$R^1$$
 N
 R^2
(3a)

5 or

$$R^1$$
 N
 R^2
(3b)

or of a mixture of two or more compounds of the formula (3a) and/or (3b),

wherein, in each case

R1 represents an alkyl radical

and

R² represents a lower alkyl radical,

as (i) a piquant substance and/or (ii) for generating a sensation of heat on consumption, regardless of the temperature of the alkenecarboxylic acid *N*-alkylamide, and/or (iii) for intensifying the flavour of ethanol and/or (iv) for imitating the flavour of ethanol and/or (v) for inducing salivation.

- Use according to claim 1 in a formulation for nutrition or consumption for pleasure.
- 3. Use according to claim 1 or 2 in a formulation for oral hygiene.
- 4. Formulation for nutrition, oral hygiene or consumption for pleasure or cosmetic or dermatological formulation, comprising an active amount of an alkenecarboxylic acid N-alkylamide of the formula

$$R^1$$
 R^2 (3a)

or

$$R^1$$
 N
 R^2

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5

or of a mixture of two or more compounds of the formula (3a) and/or (3b),

wherein, in each case

R1 represents an alkyl radical

5 and

R² represents a lower alkyl radical.

- 5. Formulation according to claim 4, comprising at least one further piquant-tasting and/or heat sensation-generating and/or salivation-inducing substance.
- 6. Formulation according to claim 4 or 5, comprising at least one piquant-tasting and/or salivation-inducing plant extract.
 - 7. Formulation according to one of claims 4 to 6, comprising at least one substance which causes a physiological cooling action.
- 8. Formulation according to one of claims 4 to 7 in the form of semifinished goods.
 - Formulation according to at least one of claims 4 to 8 in the form of odoriferous, aroma or flavouring substance compositions or a seasoning mixture.
- 10. Formulation having a flavour reminiscent of the flavour of ethanol, comprising an active amount of an alkenecarboxylic acid *N*-alkylamide of the formula

$$R^{1}$$
 R^{2}
 R^{3}
 R^{3}

or

$$R^1$$
 N
 R^2
(3b)

5

15

or of a mixture of two or more compounds of the formula (3a) and/or (3b),

wherein, in each case

R1 represents an alkyl radical

10 and

R² represents a lower alkyl radical,

as (i) a piquant substance and/or (ii) for generating a sensation of heat on consumption, regardless of the temperature of the alkenecarboxylic acid *N*-alkylamide, and/or (iii) for intensifying the flavour of ethanol and/or (iv) for imitating the flavour of ethanol and/or (v) for inducing salivation, and optionally an active amount (i)

of a further piquant-tasting and/or heat-generating and/or salivation-inducing substance and/or (ii) of a piquant-tasting and/or salivation-inducing plant extract.

11. Formulation according to claim 10, wherein the flavour reminiscent of the flavour of ethanol is largely determined by the amount of alkenecarboxylic acid *N*-alkylamide(s).

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- 12. Formulation according to claim 10 or 11, wherein ethanol is present at most in an amount of 0.5 wt.%, based on the total weight of the formulation.
- 13. Use of 2*E*-decenoic acid *N*-isobutylamide and/or 2*E*-decenoic acid *N*-(2-methylbutyl)amide as agents for promoting saliva.